

Name: _____

Class Period: _____

The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963
Unit Test Study Guide

Read each of the short essay and extended response questions below. Some of these very questions may appear on your test tomorrow.

In class today: Read and discuss your responses for each. Jot down notes and page numbers as you and your peers discuss each one. DO NOT “SCRIPT” COMPLETE ANSWERS FOR EACH ONE WITH PARTNERS. YOU SHOULD NOT PREPARE WORD-FOR-WORD ANSWERS THAT ARE THE SAME AS YOUR PEERS; JUST DISCUSS AND TAKE NOTES. (Remember the difference between “collaborating” and “cheating”!!!)

For homework or individually in class: Create a written draft of your responses for each question (optional). All writing should take place on this sheet ONLY---use the backside if you need more room, but write small in order to fit everything on it. If you choose to do this, and bring it to class with you tomorrow, will be permitted to use it on your test. Be prepared, however, to be asked to submit this after you use it on your test. I will assume you **CHEATED** if your Study Guide answers are the exact same as someone else in the class and you will receive ZERO credit on your test! (Don't risk it!)

Be certain to answer EACH part of EVERY question.

1. Identify the two settings (cities) of the book and how they compare and contrast from one another. List at least 3 ways they're similar and 3 ways they are different.
2. Identify and explain two specific examples from the book that supports and confirms that it takes place in the 1960s.
3. The word “**Tolerance**” means the acceptance of different viewpoints of other people who differ from their own race, religion or background.
The word “**Intolerance**” means the unwillingness or refusal to accept other people who are different. Many people, particularly the people living in the South, showed little tolerance for African-Americans during the 1960's. Provide two examples from the story that show how the South's intolerance negatively affected the Watson family.
4. Dynamic characters always change over the course of a novel. Kenny and Byron are both considered dynamic. List and explain two reasons for each character to support that they are dynamic and explain how your reasons show they've changed.
5. How did the poem, “The Ballad of Birmingham,” influence Christopher Paul Curtis in writing the novel?
6. Identify 3 specific lines or images from the poem “The Ballad of Birmingham” that were reflected in the novel, and explain how it relates.
7. Evaluate an author's choice to use figurative language in his/her book. Pick three different examples of figurative language used throughout *Watsons* and explain its purpose. (For example, why couldn't the author just say “He started to blush”—why did he choose to say “He cheeks turned as red as Kenny's lunch apple!”)
8. Although the church bombing was filled with excitement and action, the real “turning point” (climax) in the story was in Chapter 14 when Byron saved Kenny from drowning. Define “climax” and explain why the scene at Collier's Landing is considered a “turning point” (What does “turning point” mean? For whom?)
9. Choose a chapter, scene or even just a specific passage (quotes) that reveal something clearly about one of the characters in our story. Describe or directly quote the chapter/scene and explain what this tells readers about the character. (Think about/ look for character traits!)
10. Explain the inspiration behind Curtis's book *The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963*. Things to consider in providing your explanation: *Why did he choose that title? Why did he choose to write about a family going on a road trip? Why did he choose to set it in the 1960s? Why did he choose to include the scene with a church bombing?*